Operation Iragi Freedom II

"Telling the First Team's Story"

Saturday, July 3, 2004

Night Patrols Keeping Baghdad Streets Safer

By Spc. Bryan Kinkade 1st Cavalry Division PAO

BAGHDAD. Iraq-Jumping into their vehicles at 11 p.m., Soldiers of 3rd Platoon, Company C, 1st Battalion, 9th Cavalry Regiment, and Iraqi National Guard were on the road to the worst part of the battalion's area of responsibility.

"That's where 90 percent of our attacks occur," said 2nd Lt. David Panian, the platoon leader. "I think that the majority of the bad guys use that area because it's a poor district."

Their mission that evening was no different than any other time they've been there: to patrol the area and set up a traffic control point (TCP).

First, they rolled up near the rail yard just outside their dismounted patrol area, when a Facility Protection Service guard came up to them and said he found an unexploded ordnance (UXO) round.

"It turned out to be some kind of anti-tank round," Panian said as he called higher headquarters reporting the round. "I wish there were more individuals like them." Panian and his squad gave the men who found the UXO, a cash reward, thanked them, and then continued their mission.

"Because of the UXO, we won't have time to do the TCP," Panian said to his men. Their next objective was to patrol Haifa Street - the worst part of the area.

(Right) A squad leader for 3rd Platoon, Company C, 1-9 Cav., checks out unexploded ordnance found by Facility **Protection** Services member. The round was discovered in a Baghdad rail yard, just outside the platoon's dismounted patrol area.

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1-8 Cav. Uncovers VBIED Site, Large Weapons Cache

BAGHDAD, Iraq- 1st Cavalry Division Soldiers recently uncovered a vehicleborne improvised explosive device (VBIED) production site as well as a large weapons cache in southern Baghdad.

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion 8th Cavalry Regiment, discovered four potential VBIED vehicles in various stages of completion and three safes containing more than 12 million Iragi Dinar and various documents and ledgers.

Also found in the search

were five AK-47 rifles, approximately 500 rounds, various timers, computer boards, wires and one sight for a rocket-propelled grenade launcher. Three individuals were taken in for questioning.

At an additional site troops from 1-8 Cav. discovered several weapons caches containing partially assembled improvised explosive devices, rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) launchers, eight RPG rounds, approximately 50 pounds of C-4

explosives, TNT, five blasting caps, one detonator and other various munitions. Soldiers detained 30 individuals found at the site. All were brought in for questioning.

During questioning, eight more sites were identified. At one of the other sites, identified by the Iraqis, Soldiers found three assembled IEDs. Eighteen more people were brought in for questioning.

The detainees are allegedly part of a cell responsible for placing IEDs that have killed two Soldiers in the area. The Soldiers believe they have captured the financier, the explosive device manufacturer, the spotter, and the triggerman.

A 1st Cavalry Division spokesman called the two-day operation a success.

"Denying the enemy of the Iraqi people the weapons he uses to kill Iraqi civilians is always a remarkable success," said Lt. Col. James Hutton, the division's public affairs officer. "These discoveries deal a blow to anti-Iraqi forces."

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Iraqi National Guard, 1-9 Cav. Patrol Haifa Street



By Spc. Bryan Kinkade 1st Cavalry Division PAO

2nd Lt. David Panian, 3rd Platoon leader with Company c, 1-9 Cav. patrols the streets in his battalion's area of responsibility in Baghdad.

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The platoon split up into two squads and the first squad led them along the dark, quiet roads. Porch lights faintly lit the narrow roads. As they walked, squad members kept alert for danger. Because it was so quiet, the squad was nervous.

"Anticipation is the scariest part of it, because you're waiting for it to happen," said Spc. Kenneth Travis, a rifleman with the platoon.

They were waiting for a grenade to explode or to hear shots fired, as they often have in the past. Less than five minutes into the patrol, a grenade exploded about 50 meters in front of the platoon. None of the Soldiers saw it, though.

Carrying on the mission, the Soldiers kept marching through the streets, and all of the sudden, the power went off. Everything got even quieter and the Soldiers moved closer to the buildings.

"When the power goes out; that's usually when something's going to happen," Panian said.

Then a squad member saw a glow come toward them and they all dashed the opposite direction from what they thought was a grenade.

"My squad leader saw it and took off and ran," Panian said. "I saw it burning and thought it was a fuse, so I took off." It only happened to be a cigarette thrown off a rooftop, but it's nothing to disregard; it could have been a grenade.

"You don't really have time to be afraid," said Spc. Roel Peña, a rifleman.

The platoon reformed and continued once again. Very few people were on the streets now. The platoon's footfalls echoed softly off of nearby buildings.

When they reached the end of their patrol, the vehicles were waiting for them. They mounted up and took off, back to Forward Operating Base Headhunter.

In all, it turned out to be a decent mission, Panian said. Nobody was injured and nothing bad happened.

"Last night's patrol was actually a good patrol," Peña said. "We found a UXO and we didn't get hit."

The next day, the platoon went out again on the same patrol, covering the same streets. A grenade attack injured two Soldiers.

Both Soldiers were taken to the medics, and were patched up. They were returned to duty, and Panian and his platoon continue the mission.

Today in Cav History July 3



1943 - The second echelon of the 1st Cavalry
Division boarded the
USS Monterey and the
USS George Washington
at Camp Stoneman,
California and departed
for the Pacific theater.

Today in History July 3

> From historychannel.com
1775 On Cambridge common in Massachusetts,
George Washington rides
out in front of the
American troops gathered there, draws his
sword, and formally
takes command of the
Continental Army.

1863 On the third day of the Battle of Gettysburg, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee's last attempt at breaking the Union line ends in disastrous failure, bringing the most decisive battle of the American Civil War to an end.

1890 Idaho becomes the 43rd state.

1971 Singer Jim Morrison (The Doors) is found dead in Paris.

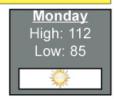
Iraqi Word of the Day

tree

she-ja-reh







Weather information provided by 1CD Staff Weather Office (SWO)

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Deployed 1CD Soldiers Join Fort Hood Soldiers in Celebration

▶ From Fort Hood Herald

Fort Hood troops worldwide are preparing to mark the nation's 228th birthday with celebrations planned from the Central Texas post to bases in Baghdad and Balad, Iraq. "The soldiers of the 1st Cav, forward deployed in Baghdad, have an increased appreciation of our nation's Independence Day celebration," said Maj. Gen. Pete Chiarelli, commander of the 1st Cavalry Division, which is spending a year in the Iraqi capital.

"As the country of Iraq has gained its sovereignty and we see a new, free nation emerge, we can see how precious freedom is to a people who have not enjoyed its blessings for many decades," Chiarelli stated in an e-mail from Baghdad. "I'm sure Independence Day means different things to each of us. One thing we can agree on is that

freedom, under the rule of law, is the cornerstone of our great nation."

Activities planned for the 1st

Cavalry at Camp Victory North include a fun run, volleyball, basketball, spades and dominoes tournaments and a horseshoethrowing contest.

To the north of Baghdad, the 13th Corps Support Command had its own plans to mark the nation's Independence Day.

"The Fourth of July is a celebration of the American spirit personified not only by those deployed in defense of the nation but by all Americans who enjoy the freedom and independence this holiday represents," said Brig. Gen. James Chambers, commander of the 13th Corps Support Command.

"Iraq is now a free and independent nation, it is our hope that the people of Iraq will soon be



similar holid a y , " Chambers said in an e-mailed statement from

celebrating a

Iraq.

Chiarelli agreed.

"We're confident that any nation that allows its people to flourish through the free exchange of ideas, commerce and freedom of religious expression will itself achieve greatness," he said. "The Fourth of July is a special day — our day as one people free and united."

Fourth of July plans at Camp Anaconda include entertainment by the "Stars for Stripes," a country band sponsored by Armed Forces Entertainment.

In Baghdad, III Corps has an exciting and historic day planned for its troops at Camp Victory North, said Lt. Col. Dan Baggio, the Corps' spokesman in Iraq.

It will mark the occasion of a "combat patch ceremony" for the III Corps," Baggio stated in an e-mail to the Herald. "This will be the first time since World War II that the III Corps Combat Patch has been awarded.

Baggio said the patch usually is awarded halfway through a combat tour; Lt. Gen. Tom Metz and Command Sgt. Maj. William Gainey thought July Fourth would be an appropriate date for the ceremony

"Lieutenant General Metz and Command Sergeant Major Gainey thought that Independence Day would be the perfect day to commemorate the III Corps in conjunction with the birth of our great nation, which we are defending, by defeating global terrorism," Baggio stated.

The 1st Cavalry also has a combat patch ceremony planned for the evening, division officials stated.



0600 Fun Run (Start at MWR)
0700 Volleyball Basketball & Horseshoes
Competitions
(MWR & 2 BCT Courts)

1000 Playstation 2, Spades & Dominoes Competitions (MWR)

1900 Combat Patch & Awards Ceremony (PX Stage)

2000 MWR Concert (PX Stage)

Call DNVT 531-9956 to sign up for the Fun Run & sign up for other competitions at MWR by July 3

<u>PERFORMING:</u>

Thund & Hisk & STRUCK



Comedian Dan Smith

Sunday, July 4



On the Home Front

39th Inf. Brigade Soldiers Meet New Family Members on R&R



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

Libby and Daniel Sanderson of Searcy admire their 8-day-old son, Daniel Jr., on Thursday at the Little Rock airport. Sanderson, a specialist with 3rd Battalion, 39th Infantry Brigade, had just arrived in Little Rock on a two-week leave from the war in Irag.

► From Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.- For several little Arkansans, Daddy came home for the first time Thursday.

Near a security checkpoint at Little Rock National Airport, Adams Field, Libby Sanderson waited anxiously, clutching her 8-day-old son, Daniel Jr. When her husband, Spc. Daniel Sanderson of Searcy crossed the checkpoint line, he rushed to his wife and son, amid enthusiastic applause.

"He's beautiful," Daniel Sanderson said as he embraced his tearful wife and newborn son.

Sanderson was one of about 20 members of the Arkansas National Guard 39th Infantry Brigade who returned home from Iraq for two weeks of rest-and-recuperation leave.

Grinning, Sanderson showed off his little boy to another first-time dad, Sgt. Randall Martin of Searcy. Sanderson held Daniel Jr. next to 2-month-old Emma Martin, and both soldiers laughed, eyes filled with tears.

Sanderson, a mechanic with the 39th's 3rd Battalion, has been in Iraq since early this spring. He learned about three weeks ago that he was eligible

to return home for a short leave.

"It's awesome," he said.
"I'm just going to chill out, hang out."

The 39th, part of the 1st Cavalry Division, left for Iraq in March and arrived there in early April. The 39th has about 2,800 Soldiers from Arkansas National Guard units.

For the deployment to Iraq, the 39th's ranks were bolstered by about 1,000 Soldiers from other states. Under current estimates, the bulk of the 39th is to return to the United States next March. However, the unit's orders cover a 24-month period, which could keep it in Iraq through October 2005.

Nearly all Soldiers with the 39th are expected to receive rest-and-recuperation leave, said Brandie Mikesell, a public affairs specialist with the Arkansas National Guard.

The trips began about three weeks ago and should continue until all Soldiers are rotated home.

The Soldiers are sent home "in order of priority," Mikesell said. New fathers are at the top of the list.

The Sandersons learned on their wedding night last July that he and his unit were to be deployed to Iraq. Eight days before he left, they learned she was pregnant.

Now, eight days after Daniel Jr.'s birth, the

Sandersons couldn't be happier.

"It feels great to be able to see him and know he's OK," Libby Sanderson said of her husband.

"I don't want to let him go back. We've been dreaming to have him back home."

Near the baggage carousel, Staff Sgt. Josh Chambliss of Bradford placed his hand on the swollen stomach of his wife, Farrah

Their baby girl's due date is Monday.

The couple hopes their first child will arrive while Chambliss is still home.

"It seemed like it took forever to get home," said Chambliss, a Soldier with the 39th's Delta Company, 3rd Battalion. "You don't really know how good you have it in America until you go someplace like Iraq."

Perhaps the largest homecoming reception was for Martin, a medic with 3rd Battalion.

Clad in red, white and blue, a throng of family members huddled around Martin, his wife, Kelly, and daughter, Emma.

The clan was slow to move downstairs to the baggage claim. When they finally arrived, Randall Martin was in the lead, cradling his daughter.

"I just changed my first diaper," he said triumphantly.



A volunteer holds an armful of kittens available for adoption at the Seattle Animal shelter. A warm winter has rained cats and dogs on area animal shelters. The mild weather has meant more litters and fewer deaths among unwanted animals, cats especially, and some shelters say they're flooded with kittens.

Seattle Post-Intelligencer

Tuiasosopo Chooses Mariners Over UW



KOMO TV

The Seattle Mariners signed their No. 1 draft pick Matt Tuiasosopo on Friday.

▶ From KOMO TV

SEATTLE- Matt Tuiasosopo still hopes to be a big star in Seattle. It won't happen with the Washington Huskies, though.

The Seattle Mariners signed Tuiasosopo, their top draft pick, on Friday. A two-sport standout and the gem of Washington's football recruiting class, he said it wasn't as tough a choice as he'd initially expected.

"It's been in my heart to play baseball, especially for the Mariners," said Tuiasosopo, who reports Saturday to Peoria of the Arizona League. "I'm just so happy it's done. I wanted to be a Mariner."

The 6-foot-2 shortstop and quarterback was Seattle's selecmonth's draft, the 93rd overall pick. The Mariners had no picks in the first or second rounds.

Washington football coach Keith Gilbertson wasn't available for comment. He said when Tuiasosopo was drafted by the Mariners that the Husky football staff would support his decision either way.

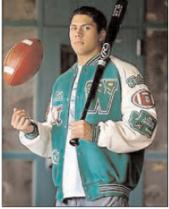
Tuiasosopo has been in contact daily with Gilbertson or assistants John Pettas and Scott Pelluer.

"They've been really supportive," Tuiasosopo said.

His older brother, Marques, was a Rose Bowl-winning quarterback for Washington and now plays for the Oakland Raiders. The younger Tuiasosopo, however, is hanging up his football cleats

"I'm playing baseball now, only baseball," he said during a news conference at Safeco Field. "I've talked about focusing on one. It's time to focus all my energy on baseball."

Last season, as a high school senior, Tuiasosopo hit .394, with five doubles, a home



Seattle Post-Intelligencer

Matt Tuiasosopo had a tough decision to make whether or not to follow in his brothers' footsteps at the University of Washington or to play professional baseball for the Seattle Mariners.

Baseball America rated him the top prospect in the state and the 60th best prospect in the draft.

Tuiasosopo comes from a family of athletic stars. Besides brother Marques, his father Manu played in the NFL for the San Francisco 49ers and Seattle Seahawks. An older sister, Leslie, was a volleyball standout at Washington. Another brother,



MLB



scores as of July 2 8:30 p.m. PDT

INTERLEAGUE

Chicago Cubs 6 Chicago White Sox 2

Montreal 2 Toronto o (played in Puerto Rico)

Cleveland 15 Cincinnati 2

New York Mets 11 New York Yankees 2

Atlanta 6 (12 innings) Boston 3

Tampa Bay 4 Florida 2

Houston 7 Texas 5

Baltimore @ Philadelphia

Detroit @ Colorado

Seattle @ St. Louis

Kansas City @San Diego

Minnesota @Arizona

Oakland @San Francisco

Los Angeles @Anaheim

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Pittsburgh 8 Milwaukee 1

Game 2 Pittsburgh 13 Milwaukee 2





tion in the third round of last run and 14 RBIs in 23 games. Zach, is a Husky fullback.				
TV GUIDE	ATLANTIC	PACIFIC	Sports	AFN Spectrum
6 p.m.	Law & Order	Live ('03-'04) 5:30 p.m.	Wimbledon Tennis Tournament - Women's Finals	Courage Under Fire 5 p.m.
7 p.m.	Navy/Marine Corps News	Kickin' It		The View
8 p.m.	SportsCenter	College Rugby - Armed Forces Weekend - 2003		Burt Wolf's Local Flavors/ A Makeover Story
9 p.m.	MLB - Interleague - NY Mets @ NY Yankees	Division 1 Women's Semifinals: Air Force vs. Penn State		Airline
10 p.m.		ESPNews/ Ballfields & Battlefields	U.S. Olympic Trials	Trading Spaces